

Senate Resolution 375

By: Senators Stoner of the 6th, Golden of the 8th, Brown of the 26th, Seay of the 34th,
Meyer von Bremen of the 12th and others

A RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to authorize the General Assembly by general law to provide for public funding of social services provided by separate charitable affiliates of religious or sectarian organizations pursuant to contracts for the provision of such services and to provide for conditions and requirements relative to such contracts; to provide that the General Assembly may appropriate federal funds received by the state; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Article I, Section II of the Constitution is amended by revising Paragraph VII as follows:

"Paragraph VII. *Separation of church and state.* (a) Except as provided in subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, no No money shall ever be taken from the public treasury, directly or indirectly, in aid of any church, sect, cult, or religious denomination or of any sectarian institution.

(b) The General Assembly is authorized to provide by general law for the public funding of social services to be provided pursuant to a contract between the State of Georgia or any department or agency of this state and any separate charitable affiliate of a religious or sectarian organization. Each such contract shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

(1) No public funds received pursuant to such contract shall be used or expended, either directly or indirectly, by any such separate charitable affiliate of a religious or sectarian organization for sectarian worship, religious instruction, or proselytizing;

(2) Any such separate charitable affiliate of a religious or sectarian organization which receives such public funds shall provide an annual accounting of the use of such funds in such a manner as provided by law and shall be subject to audit by this state regarding the expenditure of such funds;

1 (3) No public funds provided pursuant to such contract shall be used to pay tuition or
2 other expenses at any private, religious, or parochial school for grade one through 12
3 education;

4 (4) No contract shall be entered by this state or any department or agency of this state
5 with any separate charitable affiliate of a religious or sectarian organization that advocates
6 or promotes the overthrow of the government of the United States of America or the
7 principles upon which the United States of America were founded;

8 (5) No contract shall be valid or effective until and unless the state funds for such
9 contract have specifically been appropriated in a general appropriations Act or
10 supplemental appropriations Act by line item appropriation specifically identifying and
11 describing such contract;

12 (6) Such contract shall require that the separate charitable affiliate of a religious or
13 sectarian organization provide actual and valuable services and consideration to this state
14 or its department or agency in return for such public funds;

15 (7) Such separate charitable affiliate of a religious or sectarian organization receiving
16 such funds shall be exempt from federal income taxes under the provisions of 26 U.S.C.
17 Section 501(c)(3); and

18 (8) Nothing in this Paragraph shall be construed to authorize an entity receiving or
19 contracting for such public funds to discriminate against any person on the basis of race,
20 religion, sex, or national origin in connection with providing the services on behalf of this
21 state pursuant to such contract."

22 SECTION 2.

23 Article III, Section IX of the Constitution is amended by adding a new paragraph to read as
24 follows:

25 "Paragraph VIII. ***Appropriation of federal funds authorized.*** The General Assembly is
26 authorized to provide in the general appropriations Act or any supplemental appropriations
27 Act for the appropriation of federal funds received by this state."

28 SECTION 3.

29 The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as
30 provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the
31 above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

1 "() YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to authorize the General
2 Assembly by general law to provide for public funding of social services
3 () NO provided by separate charitable affiliates of religious or sectarian
4 organizations pursuant to contracts for the provisions of such services, to
5 provide for conditions and requirements relative to such contracts, and to
6 authorize the General Assembly to appropriate federal funds received by the
7 state?"

8 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."

9 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If

10 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall

11 become a part of the Constitution of this state.